

## Wildlife Wonders – Teacher Pre-visit information

### Concepts

Animals fascinate young children. This program introduces children to common kinds of animals with emphasis placed on the five vertebrate groups.

### Program Activities

The indoor introduction distinguishes how mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish differ from each other based on how they breathe, what characteristics they have on their bodies (feathers, scales, etc.), and whether they lay eggs or have live young. Older grades address what it means to be cold- or warm-blooded.

The outdoor hike will focus on signs of animals' seasonal activities and will include hands-on activities using bio-facts and an animal/vertebrate group matching game.

### Pre-visit Suggestions

Read *Animal Fact/Animal Fable* by Seymour Simon

Watch or discuss how animals are portrayed in cartoons or movies. Are the depictions accurate?

Try an animal oriented "Show and Tell"

### Vocabulary

**Vertebrate** – an animal with a backbone.

**Cold-blooded** – takes on the temperature of the environment

**Warm-blooded** – can keep the inside of the body warm and maintain a constant temperature

**Amphibian** – a cold-blooded animal without scales that spends the first part of its life in the water and the second part of its life on land.

**Bird** – a warm-blooded animal that is covered by feathers.

**Fish** – a cold-blooded animal that lives in the water, breathes with gills, and is covered with slimy scales.

**Mammal** – a warm-blooded animal that is covered with fur or hair.

**Reptile** – a cold-blooded animal that has dry scales.

## *Wildlife Wonders – Teacher Post-visit information*

Dear Teacher,

We hope you enjoyed your recent field trip to the Robinson Nature Center. To help with follow-up in the classroom, we have developed the following post-visit materials:

- 1) Follow-up discussion
- 2) Follow-up activities

### Follow-up Discussion

- 1) Review the difference between tame and wild animals
  - a. A tame animal (pet or farm) depends on people for food, water and shelter
  - b. A wild animal must find its own food, shelter and water to survive
- 2) Review the difference between cold- and warm-blooded
  - a. A cold-blooded animal takes on the temperature of its surroundings
  - b. A warm-blooded animal can keep the inside of its body warm by converting food into energy
- 3) Review the five kinds of vertebrate groups
  - a. Mammals – fur or hair, warm-blooded, live birth
  - b. Birds – feathers, wings, beaks, warm-blooded, lay eggs
  - c. Fish – gills and fins, wet scales, cold-blooded, lay eggs
  - d. Reptiles – dry scales, cold-blooded, some lay eggs, some have live birth
  - e. Amphibians – live in water as young (have gills), live on land as adults (have lungs and breathe air)
- 4) Give examples of each kind of vertebrate and where they would live

### Follow-up Activities

**Wildlife Collages** – Use magazine pictures to create a large wildlife collage in the classroom. Have each student look for, cut out, and paste animal pictures onto the collage. Try making five collages – one for each kind of vertebrate.

**Vertebrate Characteristics Chart** – Make a chart that emphasizes the basic characteristics of each vertebrate group. Make a heading for each section (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians) and under the headings, list some of the traits that these groups of animals have. Students can also draw pictures for examples under each group.

## **Bibliography**

*A Child's Book of Snakes, Lizards, and Other Reptiles* by Kathleen N. Daly

*A First Look at Birds* by Millicent Selsam and Joyce Hunt

*A First Look at Frogs and Salamanders* by Millicent Selsam

*A First Look at Animals With Backbones* by Millicent Selsam and Joyce Hunt

*Discovering Frogs* by Douglas Florian

*Fish* by Christine Sharr

*Fish Are Animals* by Judith Holloway and Clive Harper

*If You Were a Fish* by S.J. Calder

*It Could Still Be a Fish* by Allan Fowler

*It Could Still Be a Mammal* by Allan Fowler

*Let's Find Out About Birds* by Martha and Charles Shapp

*Reptiles and Amphibians* by Joanne Mattern

*The Life Cycle of a Frog* by John Williams

*The Skeleton Book—An Inside Look at Animals* by Madeline Livaudais and Robert Dunne

*What Makes a Bird a Bird?* by May Garelick

*Whose Baby?* by Masayuhi Yabuuchi

*Whose Footprints?* by Masayuhi Yabuuchi

